

PALMER TOWNSHIP RECREATION BOARD
July 20, 2021
7:00 PM
GENERAL MEETING

The Palmer Township Recreation Board held a General meeting on Tuesday, July 20, 2021 at 7:00 pm at the Charles Chrin Community Center. The following were in attendance: Vice-Chairman Cheryl Nielsen, Rick Bulette, and Thom Lee. Also in attendance were Dan McKinney and seven visitors in the audience.

Cheryl Nielsen called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

1. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approval of Minutes – June 15, 2021

INFORMATION

The Board needs to approve/disapprove the minutes of June 15, 2021.

Motion: Approve, Moved by Rick Bulette, Seconded by Cheryl Nielsen.
Passed. 3-0.

Board Members voting Ayes: Bulette, Lee, Nielsen.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Pickleball Courts

INFORMATION

Joel Dean of Palmer Township, a resident since 1980 at 38 Edinburgh Drive opened the discussion by thanking the Recreation Board for the making of the Mill Race Pickleball courts. Nielsen commented that everyone is happy that they are being used. Dean continued by explaining that Pickleball is growing in American and in Palmer. People got together and measured Fairview which is a great place to add additional Pickleball courts, suggesting that eight Pickleball courts be added at Fairview and keep the tennis courts, there is more room at Fairview than Mill Race. Dean presented a drawing to the Recreation Board. Nielsen asked if anyone ever looked at Brentwood and explained where it is located. Brentwood includes a playground and tennis courts. Tammy Huk, a resident of Palmer Township at 51 Carousel Lane, gave directions to Brentwood as well. Huk continued by explaining that they did not want to take up all the

Recreation Board's time but commented on the advantage of the lights at Fairview. McKinney explained that sometimes we get push back about the lights at Fairview, there is a lot of parking, and the park is by itself, and Fairview is the hub of the community. Lee asked if we had not already done work at Fairview? McKinney explained that we did install two courts and Dean corrected by stating three courts. McKinney continued by explaining that those courts were not done from the start. The painting and lining of Mill Race, approximately 65,000 and as the Director of Parks and Recreation, these are warranted in the township. Nielsen commented that there hasn't always had the call for adults for sports and now we do. Lee asked for the confirmation of three courts at and proposing four more courts? Dean stated there are two tennis courts that can be made into four Pickleball courts. Huk explained that tennis courts and not regulation pickleball courts. McKinney stated that he was glad to see this group here tonight. Lee asked if anyone knew what percentage was being used for tennis courts? Dean stated that most people try to go to Mill Race because they are real pickleball courts. Phil Giaquinto, a Palmer resident at 3500 Corriere Road, explained that they play through the end of December. Huk stated another point is that the pickleball courts are lined on the tennis courts so new people get confused. It would be nice to the right new size and the lights. Lee asked if the lights were automatic and McKinney explained that you must press a button, if they are not on. Eugene Carucci, a Palmer resident at 2633 Seip Avenue explained that parents are teaching their children to play tennis on the pickleball courts because it is easier, nets are lower. Carucci asked if pickleball courts could be put at the Charles Chrin Community Center and McKinney explained that there was no place for them here, no room to develop. Nielsen stated that she used to play on clay courts a lot, but they need more drainage. Lee asked if any or all the people in attendance were on any form of formal league? Giaquinto explained that they were on Team Reach and part of the Easton Area Pickleball Association. Nielsen asked how many people in attendance live in Palmer, zip code 18045 because the money comes from Palmer Township. Dean stated we all are from Palmer and they are many more. Lee asked if they were officially asking this Recreation Board to formally recommend to the Palmer Township Board of Supervisors that you want to turn tennis courts at Fairview Park into pickleball courts, you are obviously passionate so we would need to go a little further. McKinney said that would be my job to get a quote, we would go to the same guy that did Mill Race and can put pavement on top. Giaquinto asked if there were any grants available and stated it seems the federal government is throwing money. Sue Tucker, Palmer resident at 3510 Corriere Road, asked if the board was asking for a drawing? Lee explained the recommendation for budgetary purposes and would make a good selling point that is should not only be about the youth in the Township, but this would also have to be decided through the Board of Supervisors or Recreation Funds. Nielsen also stated that it would be a good idea to document how many people are using these courts. Tucker asked if there was a timeline for the additional data? Lee explained sooner than later and asked McKinney if this was the time to be asking since budget is starting? McKinney stated I can get someone there but told those in attendance that you

must convince the Recreation Board. Lee stated that we can recommend that McKinney moves forward. Giaquinto stated, "Let's be proactive". Huk asked if anyone knew the ratio of elderly people to youth in Palmer Township? Lee stated that the demographics are probably somewhere to be found. Bulette commented that you can see this by the houses going up. Huk stated that the majority coming into the area are going into fifty-five plus communities. Lee gave a short synopsis of the Recreation – Open Space Plan. McKinney explained the difference of developing new, then maintaining and fixing existing. Lee stated that we can make a recommendation for priority that is good for everyone. Nielsen commented that recreation areas are made to be used. Carucci stated you need eighteen people to use the ball field and only two to use a pickleball court. Lee explained when proposing it is good to have an idea of the number of people from Palmer. Dean explained that we played at Forks before Mill Race, tennis courts in Forks are lined but more people play tennis there. Huk stated that a lot of people are waiting on Saturday mornings to play. Curucci stated it gets too crowded at Mil Race and asked the Recreation Board to check it out. Guaquinto directed to McKinney and asked, "Are you able to bring someone in to look at what it would take?" McKinney stated that will be a discussion when you leave the room. Discussion continued for a few moments and the public exited the room at 7:31pm. Lee opened the discussion after the public left the room by asking if they were a real organization and what McKinney thinks is the cost? McKinney replied that they are just a group that gets together and probably low six figures, if you do the paint job and nets, maybe 50K I'm guessing. The guy that does them is busy, but he will come out, he's a Pro and will let us know the deal.

INFORMATION

Tennis courts are not being formally used at Fairview Park and demographics are showing the needs.

Cheryl Nielsen made a recommendation to have Dan McKinney, Director of Parks and Recreation investigate pricing in converting Fairview Park tennis courts into eight pickleball courts.

Motion: Approve, Moved by Cheryl Nielsen, Seconded by Richard Bulette

Passed. 3-0.

Board Members voting Ayes: Bulette, Lee, Nielsen

3. DIRECTOR'S REPORT INFORMATION

McKinney wanted to comment that we are doing good, halfway through the year and we are in the black, very busy, and explained that it is hard to run a Community Center for profit when all your time is given away in the winter. Lee asked if that included the Pool? McKinney explained the pool is now in the black but that will change, it is also busy. This year it is only Palmer Residents with raised prices, day passes are only for Palmer residents with raised prices. Non-residents are \$475.00 and we have nine so far. Moving forward, at some point will be looking for recommendations from the Recreation Board to keep it the same or new decisions need to be made like opening it up to non-residents, camps, etc. Camp is moving forward and will be different, these are the things to talk about next year. Nielsen asked that maybe there should be a cap on memberships. McKinney explained that there is a cap on how many go through the door. Lee commented that this will all come down to if there is camp or not, might have to decrease residents and increase non-residents if camp attends. McKinney explained that he is not sure camp is the way to go, a lot of changes.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. Wolf's Run – Planning Commission Request

INFORMATION

McKinney handed out paperwork that Cyndi Carman Kramer of the Planning Commission sent him to be reviewed and continued with the explanation that developers give money to Recreation. The developer is proposing doing an 8-foot-wide paved bike path instead of recreation fees. It would extend the bike path from the parking lot of Wolf's Run over the hill as it goes to the creek. It would connect Fox Run and Wolf Run neighborhoods. Lee expressed, in his opinion, he does not know how much it would cost the Palmer Township to do the work. "I am never a big fan of deviating from Township protocol and are they actually going to do it? These policies were put into place for a reason, stick to the plan". McKinney expressed that these things happen more times than you know, sometimes doesn't even come to this board. There are issues on both sides. Lee commented it is a lot of negotiating and everyone has their own opinion, and they are legit, just don't like deviating from the plan, they are in place to enforce. Discussion of the map that Cyndi Carman Kramer forwarded occurred.

INFORMATION

Cheryl Nielsen made a motion that all in favor of accepting this proposal for Palmer Township to allow bike path construction in lieu of the recreation fees for Wolf's Run.

Motion: Approve, Moved by Cheryl Nielson, Seconded by Rick Bulette.
Passed. 2-0.

Board Members voting Ayes: Bulette, Nielsen

Board Members voting Nays: Lee

McKinney will direct to Cyndi Carmen Kramer from the Planning Commission

5. ADJOURNMENT

Thom Lee made a motion to reconvene the meeting at 8:08 pm., the motion was seconded by Rick Bulette.

Board Members voting Ayes: Bulette, Lee, Nielsen
Passed. 3-0.

Next meeting August 17, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Lazarus
Corresponding Secretary